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ZOOLOGY.

Flight of Vanessa Antiopa, Feb. 16th.—This afternoon one of our visitors saw a butterfly fluttering in the air. In a few moments it lit on the snow, and he, going to it, found it chilled, and brought it to me. The specimen answers in appearance to *Vanessa Antiopa.* The insect has been flying about a warm room this afternoon.

Considering the intensity of the cold for the past six weeks, and the fact that even to-day the thermometer has not marked 26°, and not a suspicion of dripping even on the south side of the house, I have considered the incident worth relating to you.—E. Lewis Sturtevant, *So. Framingham, Mass., Feb.* 16, 1875.

Snails in Winter.—S. Clessin describes the habits of snails during the winter, their burying in the ground, often in crowds, the formation of the epiphragm, the interruption in the growth of the shell, etc. He thinks that slugs and fresh-water snails are less sensible to the influence of season, hiding themselves later in autumn, and coming forth earlier in spring than Helix and that young specimens are less sensible than older ones. C. B. Ver-Regensb (xxxi, pp. 114–130).—*Zoological Record for* 1872.

Filaria in the House Fly.—Prof. Leidy has recently found that the common house fly is afflicted by a thread worm, about a line in length, which takes up its abode in the proboscis of the fly. From one to three worms occurred in about one fly in five. This parasite was first discovered in the house fly of India, by Carter, who described it under the name of *Filaria muscæ*, and suggested that it might be the source of the Guinea-worm in man.

GEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY.

The Musk Sheep fossil in Silesia.—According to Herr F. Römer, of Breslau, the skull of the musk sheep (*Ovibos moschatus*), the most Arctic herbivorous mammal, has been detected among fossils from the Pleistocene loams of Silesia. The discovery is of some interest, in consequence of the limited occurrence of this species in Germany, three localities only having hitherto yielded its remains.—*Academy.*

A Tertiary Gar Pike in France.—It seems to be proved beyond doubt that a true Lepidosteus lived in the waters of the Paris basin during the early Tertiary period. M. Paul Gervais has recently announced that the ganoid fish from the Paris beds, described by Agassiz as *Lepidotus Maximiliani* should be referred to *Lepidosteus Suessionensis.* This correction is based upon the recent discovery of abundant fish remains, including vertebræ, at Neaufles, near Gisors. — *Academy.*

Fall of Cosmical Dust on the Earth. — It has been ascertained by Nordenskiöld of Stockholm, that small quantities of a cosmical dust, foreign to our planet and containing metallic iron, cobalt, nickel, phosphoric acid, and also a carbonaceous organic matter, falls upon the earth along with snow or rain. — *Amer. Journ. Science.*

ANTHROPOLOGY.

An Indian Mill Seen in the Museum of Nassau, New Providence. — This important object was marked "Indian idol or stool." An image with a human face was carved on the centre of one end of its oval shape; this "stool," as it was marked, was hollowed out, increasing from its two extremities towards the centre, the carved head peering a little above the rim. It was supported by legs, was of wood, the workmanship of the extinct race that once inhabited the island. It was in a good state of preservation, which is no doubt owing to the antiseptic qualities of the air in the cave in which it was found, which preserved the wood, that may be three hundred years old. Many caves have been found in the Bahama Islands which, if they were not the dwellings of the former Indians, must have formed their temporary shelters, as many implements are found in them.

This supposed "stool" was nothing else than a mill; the Indians would not have bestowed so much labor upon a stool. It is, besides, too small for that purpose. The people of the Island possessed in those days tools made of bone or stone, therefore they would only make the articles that manufactured food or clothing, the Islands producing no stone hard enough to be formed into a mill. It is just the height required for a person sitting upon the ground, is much like those made of stone, and in use by the poor